

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) ~~Tie-type~~ A tie-type security seal comprising a body of thermoplastic material ~~[(2)]~~ with a locking cavity in the form of a passage ~~[(7)]~~ through the body, a metallic insert element ~~[(11)]~~ fixed in said cavity and formed with at least one through-opening ~~[(15)]~~ aligned with said passage ~~[(7)]~~ and also a locking tooth ~~[(14)]~~, and an elongated strip of thermoplastic material ~~[(4)]~~ integral at one end with the body ~~[(2)]~~ and having another free end for insertion through said passage in a first direction where it is locked by said tooth ~~[(14)]~~ to prevent removal from the cavity in the opposite direction, the body and the strip having been manufactured by a plastic injection operation, ~~characterized by the fact that~~ wherein the metallic insert element ~~[(11)]~~ has been incorporated into said body of thermoplastic material ~~[(2)]~~ during the injection operation.

2. (Currently amended) ~~Security~~ The security seal according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the passage ~~[(7)]~~ that defines the cavity in the body ~~[(2)]~~ of the seal has a cross section substantially identical to that of the strip ~~[(4)]~~, at least in the greater part ~~[(5)]~~ of the length of the latter.

3. (Currently amended) ~~Security~~ The security seal according to claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the free end portion ~~[(9)]~~ of the strip ~~[(4)]~~ has a smaller cross section than the remaining part of the strip to facilitate the initial introduction through said passage ~~[(7)]~~.

4. (Currently amended) ~~Security~~ The security seal according to claim 1, 2 or 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the metallic insert element is a substantially flat part ~~[[11]]~~ stamped with a main region ~~[[13]]~~ cut out in its ~~centre~~ center to define a plurality of teeth ~~[[14]]~~ bent outwardly from the plane of the part, defining an opening ~~[[15]]~~ between the ends of the teeth for passage of the strip ~~[[4]]~~, and, on each side and in the same plane as the ~~central~~ main region ~~[[13]]~~, a lateral extension ~~[[12]]~~ of which the end coincides with the side of said body.

5. (Currently amended) ~~Security~~ The security seal according to claim 4, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said end of each lateral extension ~~[[12]]~~ of the metallic insert element has the form of a two-pronged fork.

6. (Currently amended) ~~Security~~ The security seal according to claim 4 ~~[[or 5]]~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the end of each of said side extensions ~~[[12]]~~ is integral with a corresponding end of a side extension ~~[[12]]~~ of a metallic insert element ~~[[11]]~~ of another similar seal, and the seal ~~[[1]]~~ comprises one element in a “comb” of similar seals manufactured in the same injection operation, the individual seals being separable by breaking the junctions between the ends of the lateral extensions ~~[[12]]~~ of the metallic insert elements ~~[[11]]~~.

7. (New) The security seal according to claim 5, wherein the end of each of said side extensions is integral with a corresponding end of a side extension of a metallic insert element of another similar seal, and the seal comprises one element in a “comb” of similar seals manufactured in the same injection operation, the individual seals being separable by breaking the junctions between the ends of the lateral extensions of the metallic insert elements.